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Despite reopening, the US is still closed to many in world

By TALI ARBEL and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. says that it's inviting the global community to visit now that the government has ended the ban on travelers from 33 countries.

In reality, however, it will still be difficult — if not impossible — for much of the globe to enter the country and experts say it will take years for travel to fully recover.

For starters, half the world isn't vaccinated and therefore doesn't meet the U.S. requirement for visiting foreigners. So while many Europeans may now be able to come in, people from poorer countries where vaccines are scarce remain cut off, with limited exceptions.

For some public health experts, that raises ethical questions about the policy. "The concern is not limiting



access based on vaccination status," said Nancy Kass, deputy director of public health in the Berman Institute of Bioethics at

Johns Hopkins University. "It is that it's systemically making it impossible for people, generally from poor countries, whose govern-

ments have been unable to secure anything near the supply they need, to be able to come and see their loved ones."

Even if you've gotten the jab, that might not be good enough.

Continued on next page

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Continued from Front

Non-immigrant adults need to have received vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration or which received an emergency use listing from the World Health Organization, otherwise they, too, are prohibited from entering the U.S. That sidelines anyone who's received Russia's Sputnik V or the China-produced CanSino jab. Then there are the months-long delays in some places to get a visa. The U.S. Travel Association says that, on average, there's a six-month visitor visa appointment backlog as many U.S. consulates and embassies have yet to resume normal operations. Meanwhile, other countries have their own strict rules, which complicates foreign travel. Experts do expect a wave of travelers at U.S. airports, which will go a long way to boost the overall industry. The 28 European countries that up until Monday were barred under the U.S. policy made up 37% of overseas visitors in 2019, the U.S. Travel Association says. Travelport, which analyzes airline bookings data, says

that by region, the greatest number of international travelers to the U.S. since mid-2020 has come from Latin America, but new travelers booking flights since late September, when the Biden administration said it would end the travel bans, are mainly European. The reopening of the land borders with Canada and Mexico should also help restore travel, since they are typically the top two sources of international visitors to the U.S. But the U.S. Travel Association predicted in June that international travel would not return to 2019 levels of nearly 80 million visitors until 2024. Foreign travelers dropped to 19 million in 2020 and is expected to rise a bit this year, to more than 26 million; it will more than double, to about 57 million, in 2022 but still fall far short of its pre-pandemic heights. The U.S. isn't alone in trying to jump-start travel as more people get vaccinated. Some countries that closed their borders have begun easing back, like Australia, India and Thailand; Europe

opened its doors to Americans months ago. Others, like China and Japan, remain essentially closed, which makes it difficult for their own citizens to leave and come back because of mandatory quarantines. In 2019, the two countries were among the top five biggest sources of overseas visitors to the U.S., along with the U.K., South Korea and Brazil, according to U.S. government data. Sylvia Li, who is from China and lives in the U.S., just married her partner in a small ceremony in New York a few weeks ago without her family there because she had no idea when they'd be able to come or when she'd be able to go to China. "I was able to convince them, it's really nothing, it's just a party," Li said. But her mom didn't fall for it. "I think my mom felt she was missing out. She felt like she was actually missing something big." Edgar Orozco, who owns two restaurants, both called Chelito's, in El Paso, Texas, was excited for the land border with Mexico

to reopen on Monday, and he hopes that helps fill the streets of downtown El Paso with shoppers — and customers at his restaurants — this holiday season, unlike last year, when he said streets were empty. "Now that non-essential travelers are going to be able to come back, we're looking forward to going back to those good old days," he said. But he's heard of people who have visa issues, like a vendor in Mexico who he says can't renew his visa until 2023. The appointment wait time for a U.S. visitor visa in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, is 676 days, or nearly two years, according to the State Department. In New York, the country's biggest tourist destination, businesses are gearing up for more international travelers. Hudson Yards, a shopping complex, is expanding its concierge services to include a wider array of foreign languages. City Experiences, a tour company that sends ferries to the Statue of Liberty and other sites, is increasing marketing abroad.

In the past two weeks, 75% of new bookings at three Moxy hotels in Manhattan have come from Europe, mostly the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany, said Mitchell Hochberg, president of the hotels' operator, Lightstone. Still, Hochberg thinks it will take until at least spring for international bookings to be back to their pre-pandemic levels. "Travel can be cumbersome," he said. "The flights are somewhat limited right now." Worry about getting COVID-19 also continues to put a damper on travel plans for many, even if they're now allowed in. Mehek Khera doesn't want her parents in India to visit her in Santa Clara, California, even though they could now — they're vaccinated and have visas. But the risk of getting sick is too high. Her father has a heart condition, and they don't have health insurance in the U.S. "We don't feel comfortable adding on another risk on top of that," Khera said. "They don't feel very excited to travel." □

SpaceX returns 4 astronauts to Earth, ending 200-day flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Four astronauts returned to Earth on Monday, riding home with SpaceX to end a 200-day space station mission that began last

spring. Their capsule streaked through the late night sky like a dazzling meteor before parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico off the

coast of Pensacola, Florida. Recovery boats quickly moved in with spotlights. "On behalf of SpaceX, welcome home to Planet Earth," SpaceX Mission Control radioed from Southern California. Within an hour, all four astronauts were out of the capsule, exchanging fist bumps with the team on the recovery ship. Their homecoming — coming just eight hours after leaving the International Space Station — paved the way for SpaceX's launch of their four replacements as early as Wednesday night. The newcomers were scheduled to launch first,

but NASA switched the order because of bad weather and an astronaut's undisclosed medical condition. The welcoming duties will now fall to the lone American and two Russians left behind at the space station. Before Monday afternoon's undocking, German astronaut Matthias Maurer, who's waiting to launch at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, tweeted it was a shame the two crews wouldn't overlap at the space station but "we trust you'll leave everything nice and tidy." His will be SpaceX's fourth crew flight

for NASA in just 1 1/2 years. NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and France's Thomas Pesquet should have been back Monday morning, but high wind in the recovery zone delayed their return. "One more night with this magical view. Who could complain? I'll miss our spaceship!" Pesquet tweeted Sunday alongside a brief video showing the space station illuminated against the blackness of space and the twinkling city lights on the nighttime side of Earth. □



Oklahoma court overturns \$465M opioid ruling against J&J

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma Supreme Court on Tuesday overturned a \$465 million opioid ruling against drugmaker Johnson & Johnson, finding that a lower court wrongly interpreted the state's public nuisance law in the first case of its kind in the U.S. to go to trial.

The ruling was the second blow this month to a government case that used a similar approach to try to hold drugmakers responsible for the national epidemic of opioid abuse. Public nuisance claims are at the heart of some 3,000 lawsuits brought by state and local governments against drugmakers, distribution companies and pharmacies, but it's not clear that the legal theory is in trouble with so many more cases queued up to test it.

The court ruled in a 5-1 decision that District Judge Thad Balkman in 2019 was wrong to find that New Jersey-based J&J and its Belgium-based subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals violated the state's public nuisance statute.

"The court has allowed public nuisance claims to address discrete, localized problems, not policy problems," according to the opinion written by Justice James R. Winchester.

"J&J had no control of its products through the multiple levels of distribution, including after it sold the opioids to distributors and wholesalers, which were then disbursed to pharmacies, hospitals, and physicians' offices, and then prescribed by doctors to patients." The ruling also said the company had no control over how patients then used the products.

The high court said that although it wouldn't want to downplay the suffering that thousands of Oklahomans have gone through because of opioids, the question was whether the company's marketing and sale of opioids created a public nuisance.

"J&J no longer promotes any prescription opioids and has not done so for

several years," since 2015, Winchester wrote. "Even with J&J's marketing practices these ... medications amounted to less than 1% of all Oklahoma opioid prescriptions."

State statistics show that from 2007 to 2017, more than 4,600 people in Oklahoma died from overdoses from opioids of all kinds, including prescription painkillers and illicit versions such as heroin and illegally made fentanyl. Nationally, opioids have been linked to more than 500,000 deaths since 2000.

The court also rejected the state's appeal to increase the damages award. The state was planning to use the \$465 million to fight the opioid crisis, but said that wasn't nearly enough to pay for the harm it has done.

The ruling comes a week after a California judge issued a tentative ruling that said local governments had not proven that Johnson & Johnson and other drugmakers used deceptive marketing to inflate prescriptions of their painkillers, leading to a public nuisance.

Although the Oklahoma lawsuit filed by former state Attorney General Mike Hunter was the first of thousands of similar lawsuits to go to trial, the state Supreme Court's ruling doesn't necessarily spell doom for the others.

Elizabeth Burch, a University of Georgia School of Law professor who is following the opioid litigation, said other judges and juries might not decide their cases the same way.

"The question is still whether these are outliers," she said. "I don't think we have enough of a consensus on public nuisance law and where it goes and how it works."

Carl Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, noted that state public nuisance laws vary and that the California ruling could be altered by a higher court.

"Nuisance law varies from state to state, especially in this context because it's so



cutting edge," he said. "We haven't seen enough cases to sort this out and say whether it's going to be a viable theory or not."

The Oklahoma case was the first of its kind to go to

trial, and the one in California is the only other one where a verdict was issued, as most cases have been settled before or during trials. But other opioid trials rooted in public nuisance

law are happening before juries in a federal court in Cleveland and a state court in New York. And a ruling is expected soon in a trial before a judge in West Virginia. □



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Crowd surge wasn't mentioned in Astroworld operational plan

By **JUAN A. LOZANO and ROBERT BUMSTEAD**

HOUSTON (AP) — A 56-page event operations plan for the Astroworld music festival included protocols for dangerous scenarios including an active shooter, bomb or terrorist threats, and severe weather, but it did not include information on what to do in the event of a crowd surge. But that's what authorities believe happened Friday night when eight people died after headliner Travis Scott took the stage at the outdoor festival in Houston that is now the focus of a criminal investigation. Authorities have said 50,000 people attended the event.

Among the hundreds injured was a 9-year-old boy who was trampled and remained in a medically induced coma at a Houston hospital Tuesday, according to his family.

"In any situation where large groups of people are gathering, there is the potential for a civil disturbance/riot that can present a grave risk to the safety and security of employees



and guests," the plan said. "The key in properly dealing with this type of scenario is proper management of the crowd from the minute the doors open. Crowd management techniques will be employed to identify potentially dangerous crowd behavior in its early stages in an effort to prevent a civil disturbance/riot."

If crowds are displaying threatening or destructive

behavior, security and a supervisor should be notified, the plan said.

Experts say crowd surge deaths happen because people are packed into a space so tightly that they are being squeezed and can't get oxygen. It's not usually because they're being trampled.

None of the people listed in charge of managing Astroworld's security and operations have responded to

requests for comment.

Over 300 people were treated at a field hospital on site and at least 13 were hospitalized.

Bernon Blount said his son and 9-year-old grandson, Ezra, had come from out of town to attend the festival together. But they became separated during the crowd surge, Blount said, setting off a frantic search to locate Ezra who was eventually found at a hos-

pital. Blount said his grandson's heart, lungs and brain were injured in the melee.

"My son, once he had passed out from the pressure being applied to him during the concert, he passed out and Ezra fell into the crowd," Blount told The Associated Press. "When my son awakened, Ezra wasn't there."

Houston's police chief said Monday that he met with Scott to discuss safety concerns before the rapper performed on Friday. Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said Scott's head of a security also attended that meeting, but he did not provide details of their conversation in a statement released by the police department.

Houston police and fire department investigators have said they are reviewing surveillance video provided by concert promoter Live Nation, as well as dozens of clips from people at the show that were widely shared on social media. Investigators also planned to speak with Live Nation representatives, Scott and concertgoers. □

Stocks move lower, putting long winning streak in jeopardy



By **DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writer**

Stocks moved lower in afternoon trading on Wall Street Tuesday, putting an extended winning streak for the market in jeopardy. The S&P 500 index fell 0.5% as of 12:57 p.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 179 points, or 0.5%, to 36,249 and the Nasdaq fell 0.7%.

The benchmark S&P 500 has risen to record highs for

eight days in a row, tying its longest winning streak since April 2019.

Losses for a mix of technology companies and companies that rely on direct consumer spending outweighed gains elsewhere. Bond yields fell and hurt banks, which rely on higher yields to charge more lucrative interest on loans. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.42% from 1.49% late Monday. Wells

Fargo fell 2.9%.

PayPal slumped 11.4% after cutting its profit and revenue forecasts for the year. Robinhood fell 2.5% after the popular trading app reported a data breach.

Auto companies and travel-related companies slipped. Ford fell 2% and Carnival fell 1.4%.

Tesla slumped 11.3% and is down roughly 15% so far this week following Elon Musk's announcement that he would sell 10% of his holdings in the electric car maker based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter.

Sectors that are considered less risky, including household product makers and utilities, held up better than the rest of the market.

Investors received another reminder from the Labor Department that rising inflation remains persistent. The agency reported that

inflation at the wholesale level rose 8.6% in October from a year earlier, matching September's record annual gain.

A wide range of companies are facing higher costs for raw materials and energy while contending with supply chain problems. That has been cutting into their operations and prompting them to raise prices on finished goods, which in turn has been making products and services more costly for consumers.

The Labor Department will release its Consumer Price Index for October on Wednesday, giving a more detailed picture on how inflation is impacting consumers.

Inflation remains a key concern for investors, especially as the Federal Reserve moves ahead with plans to trim back, or taper, its bond purchases that have

helped maintain low interest rates.

"The Fed did such a good job of telegraphing it, but there is still the mechanics of the actual tapering," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategist at Baird.

A mix of solid earnings and corporate updates helped lift several stocks. General Electric rose 3.4% after saying it would split into three companies. Zynga, which makes "FarmVille" and other online games, rose 8.9% after giving investors an encouraging revenue forecast.

The latest round of earnings is nearing its end, but investors still have several big corporate report cards to review.

Walt Disney will report its results on Wednesday. Tapestry, the owner of Coach and other luxury brands, will report its results on Thursday. □

Haiti priest recounts abduction by gang holding missionaries

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Father Jean-Nicolas Milien felt the cool barrel of a gun against his right ear. The Haitian priest and nine other people had just been kidnapped while driving through the outskirts of the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, in early April. It was around 7 a.m. and they were en route to celebrate the installation of a fellow pastor at a nearby parish when 15 to 20 gang members brandishing heavy weapons surrounded their car.

"Go here! Go here!" the gunmen commanded as they pulled over the car.

It was the 400 Mawozo gang, the same group that kidnapped 17 missionaries from a U.S. religious organization on Oct. 16 as they drove to an orphanage. That group, which includes five children, the youngest 8-months-old, is still being held for ransom amid death threats.

Milien spoke to The Associated Press Tuesday, describing the ordeal he and his nine companions — two nuns, four fellow priests and



three relatives — endured at the hands of their captors.

After seizing them on April 11, the gunmen blindfolded him and the others, Milien said, and drove until they reached a dilapidated house where they slept on a dirt floor for days.

"We did our necessities on the ground," he recalled. "It was really difficult."

Milien and the others were kept blindfolded for two days and fed only rice and

bread, washed down with Coca-Cola.

On the first day, gang members demanded the group hand over phone numbers of their relatives. The gunmen made calls demanding \$1 million per head — the same ransom they made for the missionaries kidnapped last month.

On the fourth day, the gang released one person and moved Milien and the others to a smaller house. After two weeks, they released

three more, but not Milien. He and the remaining five captives were moved to yet another abandoned house.

"That last week, it was very difficult," he recalled, saying they received no food and barely any water.

On their way to the third location, the gang leader told them: "Here, we don't have any food, any hospital, any house. We don't have anything, but we have a cemetery."

Milien took that as a death threat and doubled down. "I told them, 'Continue to pray,'" he said he told his fellow captives. "One day, we will be free."

Eventually Milien and the five others were released after an undisclosed ransom sum was paid.

Their freedom came via a knock on the door on the 20th day of their captivity. It was 11 p.m.

"Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Let's go!" Milien recalled a gang member yelling.

The group, in its weakened state, walked several yards (meters) to a car that took them to their neighborhood. Milien spent almost a week in the hospital, receiving medication and vitamins as he tried to regain his strength.

Months later, Milien still receives psychological help. "It is not easy. Every time we remember something. Every time we think about something. ... It is a part of my life," he said.

His advice to the families of the 16 Americans, one Canadian and their Haitian driver who remain captive is to never lose hope as he prays for their release. □

Morgues, hospitals struggle with COVID-19 deaths in Romania

By ANDREEA ALEXANDRU Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)

— The morgue in Romania's main hospital has no space for the dead any more. In a stark illustration of the human cost of the coronavirus surge sweeping the nation, bodies of COVID-19 victims, wrapped in black plastic bags, line a hallway of the hospital in the capital, Bucharest.

Hundreds of people have been dying each day for the past two months in Romania which has been among the hardest-hit in the current virus onslaught raging through Central and Eastern European nations, where far fewer people have been vaccinated than in Western Europe.

A country of 19 million people, Romania currently has among the highest death rates in Europe. Last month the World Health Organi-

zation sent a team to help with the nation's pandemic response.

Frustrated and overworked, Romania's doctors have been struggling to cope.

"A village vanishes daily in Romania!" gasped Dr. Catalin Cirstoiu, the head of the Bucharest University Emergency Hospital. "What about in a week or a month? A larger village? Or a city?"

Where do we stop?"

Experts have blamed the soaring deaths on the low vaccination rate in Romania where about 40% of the population has been fully vaccinated — far lower than the European Union's average of 75%.

The low rates here and elsewhere in the region are believed to be the result of a general mistrust in the authorities and institutions, education gaps and deeply-rooted anti-vaccination

movements, that even include some top doctors.

"We are exhausted financially ... physically and psychologically," lamented Cirstoiu. "All of these are caused by one thing at the end of the day: the population's inability to comprehend that they need to get vaccinated."

He insisted that "had 70% of the population been vaccinated, we wouldn't have had a fourth wave."

At the hospital, even an emergency waiting room has been converted into a COVID-19 area, sealed off by a plastic sheet. On the days when admittances run high, newly-arrived patients have been forced to lie on stretchers in the corridors before they can get a bed.

On Monday, hospital staff in protective gear rushed through a sprawling ward to attend to the patients,

many of whom were lying in their beds with oxygen masks tight on their faces. A woman sitting on her bed rested her head, wrapped in a pink traditional scarf, on her hand.

Romania recorded its highest daily death toll of the pandemic on Nov. 2 when 591 COVID-19 fatalities were reported — more than 90% of them unvaccinated. Currently, 1,870 COVID-19 patients throughout

the country are receiving intensive care treatment, nearly 51,000 people with coronavirus have died since the start of the outbreak.

The situation forced the authorities two weeks ago to impose tighter restrictions, making vaccination certificates mandatory for various day-to-day activities, such as going to the gym, the cinema, or a shopping center. □



Rights groups urge Sudan army to free those detained in coup

By **FAY ABUELGASIM** Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Two leading international rights groups urged Sudan's military in a joint statement Tuesday to release government officials, activists and others detained during the army's coup last month.

The wife of a detained former minister, meanwhile, expressed concerns about the health of her husband, whose whereabouts, like others, remain unknown. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International also appealed for an end to "further arbitrary arrests" and the crackdown that has been taking place on anti-coup protests.

It was the first time the two prominent groups issued a joint statement on Sudan. They had separately appealed to Sudan's military to free those arrested during and after the coup.

On Oct. 25, the Sudanese military seized power, dissolving the country's transitional government and detaining more than 100 government officials and political leaders, along with a large number of protesters and activists. The army also placed the country's prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok, under house arrest in his residence in the capital of



Khartoum.

Since the takeover, at least 14 anti-coup protesters have been killed due to excessive force used by the country's security forces, according to Sudanese doctors and the United Nations. On Sunday, security forces tear-gassed demonstrators and rounded up more than 100 people, most of them anti-coup teachers in Khartoum.

The coup has drawn international criticism and massive protests in the streets of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

Moez Hadra, a defense

lawyer for the deposed officials, said half are believed to be held in Khartoum and the others are scattered across the country's provinces.

Hadra said he and other defense lawyers have not been allowed to communicate with some of their clients or know their whereabouts.

Twenty-five of those detained face charges of inciting troops to rebel against their leaders, he said. If convicted, they would likely face up to life imprisonment, he said.

One of the 25 is Ibrahim

al-Sheikh, the minister of industry in the deposed government. Al-Sheikh was a prominent figure in the pro-democracy movement that led the opposition against longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in his final months in power.

Armed forces took al-Sheikh from his house in Khartoum early on Oct. 25, hours before coup leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan announced the disbanding of the government, his wife Amani Malik Ibrahim said.

"He was arrested in front of his family, including children

and older women," she told The Associated Press from the family's home in Khartoum's Bahri district.

Since then, his whereabouts have been unknown and he has only been allowed to speak by phone briefly one time with his family. That call alarmed his wife because he was sick at the time of his detention.

"I felt like he was not well. This was not Ibrahim's normal voice. I asked him where he was detained and he didn't answer because it is clear there is someone on the phone with him," she said.

Al-Tahir Maki Idris, another defense lawyer, said attorneys have sent requests to the military seeking the whereabouts of those arrested and the legality of their detention.

"There is no one that is helpful on what is happening to those detained or even their locations and their treatment," he said.

Mohamed Osman, Human Rights Watch's researcher on Sudan, said that since the coup, the Sudanese military "has resorted to its well-trodden and brutal tactics, undermining small but important progress on rights and freedoms that Sudanese from all walks of life have fought for." □

Denmark wants to reintroduce phased-out coronavirus pass

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Denmark wants to again consider COVID-19 as "a socially critical disease," paving the way for the reintroduction of a digital pass months after the label was removed and restrictions were phased out. The move, which still needs

approval in parliament, will also allow Denmark to reintroduce other restrictions if deemed necessary. A majority seems to be backing the suggestion of the minority Social Democratic government.

The pass was introduced on July 1 but removed on

Sept. 10, when Denmark declared that the outbreak no longer was to be considered "a socially critical disease," citing the high rate of vaccination.

However, Denmark has like many other countries seen an uptick in cases, with health authorities saying the number of infections and hospitalizations has risen faster than expected. On Monday, Health Minister Magnus Heunicke said the COVID pass must apply to nightclubs, cafes, party buses and indoor restaurants but also outdoor events where the number of people exceeds 2,000.

The Danish pass app shows a QR code with a green banner if the holder is fully vaccinated or received a

first dose at least two weeks ago, has recently recovered from COVID-19 or has had a negative test in the past 72 hours. A paper version is also available.

The call to reintroduce the pass was immediately welcomed by the industry.

Kristian Noergaard, a senior member of Horesta, the employers' organization for the hotel, restaurant and tourism business, said that to them the most important thing "is that we avoid more shutdowns. It will be a disaster for a business that will have to pay off the debt from previous closures for a long time to come."

"At the same time, we expect that the initiative can create security around the running of many Christmas

events," he said in a statement.

Brian Mikkelsen, head of the Danish Chamber of Commerce, said they too backed the reintroduction of the pass because "new shutdowns must and should be avoided."

Heunicke said Tuesday that following the announcement, 37,015 online bookings were made in 24 hours, more than three times as many as the previous day. "Thank you to all of you who accept the offer. We can do this," he wrote on Twitter.

According to the latest figures, 86% of people over the age of 12 in Denmark have received two shots, while 87.4% have been given the first jab. □





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Chilean president impeached over Pandora Papers revelation

By EVA VERGARA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — President Sebastián Piñera was impeached Tuesday by the lower house of Chile's congress, setting up a trial in the nation's Senate over whether to remove him due to allegations he favored the sale of a family property while in office.

The vote to accept the charges got the bare minimum of 78 votes needed in the 155-member Chamber of Deputies and followed a marathon 20-hour session. Sixty-seven legislators voted against the "constitutional accusation," including several members of the opposition. Others abstained or were absent.

As in the U.S. and many other nations, a Senate trial follows impeachment and Piñera is unlikely to be removed by the 43-member upper house, where the opposition has only 24 of the 29 votes needed to oust a president.

The Senate deliberations on his fate will occur in the heat of an election campaign to replace him in any case. The first round of general elections is set for Nov. 21 and Piñera's term ends on March 11. Chile does not permit presidential re-election to consecutive terms.

The accusation stems from publication of the so-called Pandora Papers, which revealed offshore financial dealings of prominent figures around the world, including Piñera, one of

Chile's wealthiest people.

The leaked documents revealed that one of Piñera's sons used offshore companies in the British Virgin Islands for sale of the Dominga mining project, which his family co-owned.

The final payment on the mine's sale in 2011 hinged on the government declining to declare its location in north-central Chile a nature preserve. The government, by that time headed by Piñera, did not do so, despite appeals from environmentalists. But nor did subsequent governments.

When investigators looked into the case a few years later, Piñera said he had not been involved in managing the companies and had not even realized the connection with Dominga. The president's office noted last month that Piñera's first term as president, from 2010 to 2014, hadn't started when the sale was agreed to, that prosecutors and courts decided in 2017 that no crime had been committed and that Piñera had not been involved. It said all due taxes were paid in Chile.

Piñera's holdings are now managed in a blind trust, according to the statement.

The national prosecutor's office has said it is once again investigating the case, however.

In order to get the majority needed for impeachment, Socialist Deputy Jaime Naranjo effectively stalled for 14 hours, read-

ing a series of documents, until Deputy Giorgio Jackson was able to enter the chamber to vote following a mandatory quarantine period after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Another deputy voted despite awaiting results of a coronavirus test. He slipped into the building through a side door to avoid health checks.

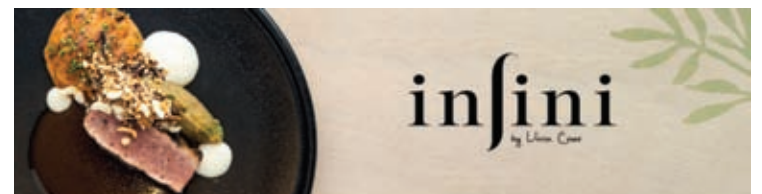
The minister of the presidency, Juan José Ossa, called the impeachment "a political show, a media show. It's sad for democracy."

Pro-government Deputy Andrés Molina said, "It causes me shame, personally."

Just before voting, Jackson said, "There are people who think what happened yesterday and today in

the chamber is shameful. But I think what is shameful

is having a president who speculates." □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infiniti, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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Discover enhanced tranquility of Body & Mind at Eforea Spa

PALM BEACH — Aruba's unique oceanfront spa, Eforea, at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, is thrilled to announce the addition of locally inspired wellness treatments and services to its menu.

"We are excited to offer a mix of timeless and innovative treatments to our guests who perhaps were restricted in travel over the past year and a half and finally take time to vacation, wishing to emerge brighter, feeling renewed, uplifted and refreshed," says Mariëtte Smeets, Senior Director of Resort Experience.

Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba is proud to introduce Aruba's first Sacred Sound

Massage, a meditative experience that combines a full-body massage with vibration sound therapy. The Eforea Astronomy Experience, a nighttime transformational encounter combines star gazing via telescope, followed by a romantic massage under the stars and a bottle of sparkling wine.

The extensive spa menu features the Escape, Essential, and Signature Journeys, highlighting specialty therapies available in the spa's ten beautifully appointed treatment rooms, the outdoor cabana, or the three couples' rooms, with optional use of steam room, sauna, cold plunge pool, full-service salon and

state-of-the-art fitness center.

The Escape Journey menu highlights the use of Aruba's indigenous products such as Aruba Aloe, organic Coconut Oil, rum, fruit serum, sea salt, local herbs, and hot lava stones. Escape massages are designed for guests to unwind, even aid in the quality of their sleep. Exfoliation, hydration, and balancing come together in treatments with local Papiamentu names such as Playa Y Lama, translating into Beach & Ocean, and Drumi Dushi, Sleep Sweetly. The Essential Journey places the focus on body and mind connection, where physical and emotional health are intimately intertwined. The emphasis here is on fitness muscle massages, or stress relief techniques, in light, medium or deep tissue pressure. For the first time in eighteen-months, facials are back at Eforea Spa, including moisturizing and balancing treatments for both men and women. Prenatal and postnatal massages, targeting stress areas, are



back and available, upon request.

The Signature Journey pays close attention to often neglected areas of the body, such as Head & Face, Shoulder, Neck & Scalp, or Feet, for ultimate, focused, distress massages.

Furthermore, the spa delivers a complete Hand & Foot menu, including a mud treatment, and Hand & Foot renewal, with many enticing options, such as incorporating the Hypervolt Percussion Device for improved circulation. For those seeking the perfect tan, Coola sunscreen or après-sun application is available.

Several upgrades are introduced in the new menu to enhance massages, facials and body treatments even further, with special Babor ampoule applications, NuFace red-light therapy Wrinkle Reducer, and Eye Lifter, all innovative micro-current, anti-aging therapies. To bring people together, the dedicated couples' spaces include the open-air beachfront cabana, for an ultimate romantic escape, a friendship retreat, or mother-daughter quality-time. Guests who wish to truly transition into their vacation mode, are invited to try the Head to Toe, a complete cleansing and renewing session.

All spa treatments commence with a Hand Cleansing Wellness Ritual, utilizing Aruba Aloe. Hands are thoroughly sanitized with hand soap, Aloe hand sugar scrub, and hand lotion.

The Japanese-inspired Bamboo relaxation area invites guests to linger longer, setting the tone for ultimate tranquility.

Visit Eforea Spa for a much-needed escape and enjoy the added confidence of top safety protocols. All body massages may be performed with gloves upon guest request and face shields are available.

About Eforea Spa:

Eforea Spa is Hilton's refreshing take on a spa experience, dreamed up to delight global guests and deliver a refreshingly unexpected spa experience – a spiritual escape from the increasing hectic day to day. Hilton's Eforea Spa focuses on balance and wellness, where guests can find signature spa journeys waiting for them – the essentials, escape and Men's journeys are core to the Eforea Spa experience, offering a distinctly therapeutic approach & take guests on a "journey of the senses".

Eforea Spa at Hilton Aruba offers a special daily Happy Hour between 5-6pm, with a choice of a 10% discount on a treatment or a complimentary add on to a treatment. To book your next treatment at Eforea Spa, call +297-526-6052 or email at auahh_eforea_aruba@hilton.com. Hours of operation: Monday - Sunday 9am - 6pm

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Tel +297-526-6052

auahh_eforea_aruba@hilton.com

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New beginnings after the kitchen table and beyond with new restaurant: Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

infini
by Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading *The Kitchen Table* for five years, receiving notable recognitions in *USA Today*, *The Daily Meal* and earning the #1 spot on TripAdvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. *Infini*, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in November 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. The former *The Kitchen Table* space has since been renovated into a suitable culinary studio to host this vision. In describing these changes, Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. The spotlights, which we carefully choreograph, follow the plates' transition from blank canvas into culinary works of art."

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

He had been sitting on the first menu for over a year. Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the eight-course Chef's Impression. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create. Take our popular langoustine for example; we combined elements that are rarely paired together: the bitter, sour and salty flavors of the lemon cream, kombucha, green grapes, watercress and achiote, fused with the sweet and delicate taste of the langoustine induce ultimate umami."

After hosting the first menu for three months, the Executive Chef introduced a second tour de

force in February 2021 — this time a pescatarian menu dedicated to Lent, of which Croes has to say: "I wanted to focus on the finest fish in the world, they are the protagonists of this season." Visitors can experience the second Chef's Impression until May 2021, at which point Croes and his team will reveal exciting new flavors for the summer.

"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the six young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, *Infini*'s Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently returned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant *Spectrum*, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred *FG Restaurant*, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to *Infini*. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails,

which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the *Salinity* welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins *Infini* to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www.infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982. □



28 Divi Resort employees recognized

ORANJESTAD – On November 4, 2021, Minister of Tourism Dangui Oduber, together with the Divi and Tamarijn Director Marin Bijl and HR. Director Maria Esguerra awarded 28 employees of the Divi Resort for their lifetime commitment with the Divi Resort. This event took place in the Ballroom of the Alhambra.

The group of 28 employees has worked in many areas and different of the Divi Resorts.

- 8 employees celebrated their 25th anniversary;
- 9 employees celebrated their 30th anniversary;
- 8 employees celebrated their 35th anniversary;
- 3 employees celebrated their 40th anniversary.

The Divi Resort Divi Resort opened its door in 1969 under the name Divi Aruba and has grown into a company of 5 resorts in Aruba.

1. Divi Dutch Village Resort
2. Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
3. Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort
4. Divi Aruba All-Inclusive Resort
5. Divi Tamarijn All inclusive Resort

Three of these five are Timeshare resorts.

Minister Oduber thanked all the 28 employees for their lifelong commitment to the Tourism Industry of Aruba. They are an inspiration for all. □



Curacao is no longer on the high-risk list



ORANJESTAD - Since November 7, 2021, Curacao is no longer considered a country of high risk for Aruba.

That means that Aruba and Curacao residents traveling from Curacao to Aruba do not have to provide negative test results if vaccinated. However, unvaccinated travelers from Curacao

are still required to show a negative test result upon arrival in Aruba. Travelers from Curacao can upload their vaccination certificate or negative test result when completing their ED card. □

New prices for petroleum products November 10, 2021



ORANJESTAD – The Minister Economic Affairs, Communications and Sustainable Development announces the adjusted prices for petroleum products starting November 10, 2021:

Gasoline unleaded-premium : 246,4 cent p/ltr. (+ 12,2 cent)
 Gasoil LS : 209,0 cent p/ltr. (+ 15,8 cent)
 Kerosene : 188,5 cent p/ltr. (+ 15,7 cent)

BBO(turnover tax)/BAZV(Health tax)/BAVP is included in the prices. □

Storied General Electric to split into 3 public companies

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer**

General Electric, the storied American manufacturer that struggled under its own weight after growing to become a sprawling conglomerate, will divide itself into three public companies focused on aviation, healthcare and energy. It is the culmination of an arduous, years-long reshaping of a symbol of American manufacturing might that could signal the end of conglomerates as a whole.

"It's over now," said Nick Heymann of William Blair, who has followed GE for years. "In a digital economy, there's no real room for it."

The company has already rid itself of the products most Americans know, including its appliances last year and the light bulbs that GE had been making since the late 19th century when the company was founded.

The announcement Tuesday marks the apogee of those efforts, divvying up

an empire created in the 1980s under Jack Welch, one of America's first CEO "superstars."

GE's stock became one of the most sought after on Wall Street under Welch, routinely outperforming peers and the broader market. Through the 1990s, it returned 1,120.6% on investments. GE's revenue grew nearly fivefold during Welch's tenure, and the company's value increased 30-fold.

Yet the stock began to lag in the summer of 2001, the waning days of Welch's rule, and near ruin for GE struck toward the close of the decade with the arrival of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. General Electric's vulnerabilities were laid bare and the epicenter was GE Capital, the company's financial wing.

Shares lost 80% of their value from the start of 2008 into the first few months of 2009 and has only recently begun to recover as the company unwinds much of what Welch built.



The stock is already up 30% this year as the asset sales keep coming, and it rose 6% in heavy trading Tuesday, reaching a new high for the year.

GE's aviation unit, its most profitable, will keep General Electric in the name. GE will spin off its healthcare business in early 2023 and its energy segment including renewable energy, power and digital operations in early 2024.

The decision to split was well received Tuesday by those who had pushed for the change.

"The strategic rationale is clear: three well-capital-

ized, industry leading public companies, each with deeper operational focus and accountability, greater strategic flexibility and tailored capital allocation decisions, wrote Trian Fund Management, a large stakeholder whose founding partner serves on GE's board. "We salute GE CEO Larry Culp and his team's efforts in driving long-term shareholder value."

Heymann, of William Blair, said the conglomerate model no longer works in a marketplace in which only the quick and agile survive. Culp will become non-executive chairman of the

healthcare company, with GE maintaining a 19.9% stake in the unit. Peter Arduini will serve as president and CEO of GE Healthcare effective January 1, 2022. Scott Strazik will become CEO of the combined renewable energy, power, and digital business. Culp will lead the aviation business along with John Slatery, who will remain its CEO.

Culp achieved a major milestone this year in reshaping General Electric with a \$30 billion deal to combine GE's aircraft leasing business with Ireland's AerCap Holdings. Because the arrangement pushed GE Capital Aviation Services into a separate business, Culp essentially closed the books on GE Capital, the financial division that nearly sank the entire company during the 2008 financial crisis.

The company said Tuesday that it expects operational costs of approximately \$2 billion related to the split, which will require board approval. □

White House unveils funding to ease ports and supply chains

By **JOSH BOAK**

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Biden administration rolled out plans on Tuesday to identify and pay for possible upgrades to U.S. ports within the next 90 days — hoping to ultimately tamp down the inflation being caused by ships waiting to dock and a shortage of truck drivers to haul goods. As the U.S. emerges from the coronavirus pandemic, the economic recovery has been hampered by congested and aging ports. The mix of inflation and the potential for empty store shelves during holiday shopping has created a sense of frustration for many Americans and hurt President Joe Biden and Democrats politically.

Senior administration officials said Tuesday that the Transportation Department would allow port authorities to redirect any leftover money from grant projects to address the supply

chain issues. For example, the Georgia Port Authority will use \$8 million to convert its inland facilities into container yards, freeing up dock space and speeding the flow of goods to their final destinations.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the forthcoming plans, which come on the heels of the House passing a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package late Friday. The package includes \$17 billion to improve coastal and land-based ports that can help to tackle the challenges in the longer term.

Biden will highlight the administration's efforts by visiting Baltimore's port on Wednesday. It's part of a broader effort to show that the administration will tackle the inflation that has left Americans feeling more pessimistic about the economy. Updated figures for the consumer price index will be released Wednes-

day, with the previous report showing prices were 5.4% higher than a year ago.

The Baltimore trip is designed to highlight the types of investments that the administration believes will help unclog the supply chain. The port in Baltimore is adding container cranes and adding a 50-foot berth where ships can be unloaded. The administration has also approved grants so that the Howard Street Tunnel — a train artery that opened in 1895 — can be expanded to ferry double-stacked containers on railcars.

The Biden administration earlier helped broker an agreement to increase the hours of operation at the Port of Los Angeles, but it's been difficult to immediately fix this challenge. Administration officials said the initiatives being announced Tuesday would make the supply chain



faster, more efficient and environmentally friendly in the medium to longer term. Additional steps include launching a \$240 million grant program in the next 45 days to modernize ports and marine highways. Within 60 days, the government wants to identify repair projects and opportunities to deepen harbors for larger ships that can be a guide for more than \$4 bil-

lion in construction by the Army Corps of Engineers. The government will also look over the next 90 days at which ports of entry should be upgraded and expanded as part of a \$3.4 billion investment. It also plans within 90 days to open the first round of more than \$475 million in grants for ports made possible through the newly passed infrastructure package. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Regarding

- 1 True statement
- 5 Stellar radio source
- 11 Magnetic metal
- 12 Loosen, in a way
- 13 Pants part
- 14 Wed in secret
- 15 "2001" computer
- 16 Borscht veggie
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- 22 Copying
- 24 Ice cream unit
- 26 Bobcat's kin
- 27 Visibility lessener
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- 30 Daughter of Leda
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- 35 Wedding words
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- 42 Steered clear of
- 43 Lively folk dance
- 44 Broadway's Bernadette

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- 4 Blasting stuff
- 5 Hive leader
- 6 Except if
- 7 Heaps
- 8 Easy victim
- 9 Tennis feat
- 10 Spectrum end
- 16 Implore
- 18 "Need You Tonight" band
- 19 Sites of defensive stands
- 20 Seep
- 21 Ready for business
- 22 Swiss peaks
- 23 Firebug, for short
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- 30 Cow chow
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- 34 Law of the movies
- 36 Song for two
- 37 Capital on a fjord
- 38 Workout unit
- 39 Planning time
- 40 Diamond club
- 41 — pro nobis

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Yesterday's answer

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11-10

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

K B K R U T K Y Z T K W Q U I K B Z D

Q M O U T I G K T H R B Z Y M T

D U R B G Y A Q G T A G Q U F G N Z R B

Z M Y A U X Y Z N N Z O U X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SECRET OF SALVATION IS THIS: KEEP SWEET, BE USEFUL AND KEEP BUSY. — ELBERT HUBBARD

Facebook whistleblower fears the metaverse

By RAF CASERT and KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen warned Tuesday that the "metaverse," the all-encompassing virtual reality world at the heart of the social media giant's growth strategy, will be addictive and rob people of yet more personal information while giving the embattled company another monopoly online.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Haugen said her former employer rushed to trumpet the metaverse recently because of the intense pressure it is facing after she revealed deep-seated problems at the company, in disclosures that have energized legislative and regulatory efforts around the world to crack down on Big Tech.

"If you don't like the conversation, you try to change the conversation," the former product-manager-turned-whistleblower said. The documents she has turned over to authorities and her testimony to lawmakers have drawn global attention for providing insight into what Facebook may have known about the damage its social media platforms can cause. She is in the midst of a series of appearances before European lawmakers and regulators who are drawing up rules for social media companies.

Meta, the new name for the parent company of Facebook, denied it was trying to divert attention away from the troubles it faces by pushing the metaverse. "This is not true. We have been working on this for a long time internally," the company said in a statement.

It stressed that it's working to responsibly build the metaverse — essentially a series of interconnected virtual communities that will merge online life with real life. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said that users will, for example, be able to attend virtual concerts or fence with holograms of Olympic athletes in the metaverse — and he refocused the entire company on creating it, including renaming the business Meta. Launching that new brand, in fact, draws attention to the company, it said in a statement, adding that if it didn't want the scrutiny it would have delayed or scrapped the launch altogether.

But the new focus on the metaverse creates a whole new set of dangers, Haugen said. In "Snow Crash," the 1992 sci-fi novel that coined the phrase, "it was a thing that people used to numb themselves when their lives were horrible," she said.

"So beyond the fact that these immersive environments are extremely addictive and they encourage people to unplug from the reality we actually live," she said, "I'm also worried about it on the level of — the metaverse will require us to put many, many more sensors in our homes and our workplaces," forcing users to relinquish more of their data and their privacy.

In a presentation last month, Zuckerberg

described how the metaverse would allow for mixed-reality business meetings where some participants are physically present while others beam in as avatars. The company has launched virtual meeting software called Horizon Workrooms for use with its virtual reality headsets, so co-workers can (hopefully) better communicate, brainstorm and socialize virtually, instead of, say, looking at one another on a Zoom call grid.

But Haugen said employees of companies that use the metaverse would have little option but to participate in the system or leave their jobs.

"If your employer decides they're now a metaverse company, you have to give out way more personal data to a company that's demonstrated that it lies whenever it is in its best interests," she said.

And she cautioned the public not to expect more transparency.

"They've demonstrated with regard to Facebook that they can hide behind a wall. They keep making unforced errors, they keep making things that prioritize their own profits over our safety," she said. Haugen has said Facebook's systems amplify online hate and extremism, fail to protect young people from harmful content, and that the company lacks any incentive to fix the problems, in revelations that shed light on an internal crisis at the company that provides free services to 3 billion people.

To back up her allegations, she has made a series of disclosures to the Securities and Exchange Commission that were also provided to Congress in redacted form by her legal team. The redacted versions received by Congress were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including the AP.

In Tuesday's interview, she expressed astonishment that the company would shift focus to a whole new realm while it is under such intense criticism about the areas where it is already working.

"They're going to hire 10,000 engineers to work on video games when they haven't actually gotten safety right on their main product," Haugen said.

For that, she faulted Zuckerberg personally, saying he has exhibited a pattern of prioritizing growth over making sure Facebook is good for users.

"I think that is a failure of leadership," she said. "Unless he wants to prioritize the safety of the platform, he should step aside and let someone else focus on that."

The company denied that it's putting profits over safety. "Yes, we're a business and we make profit, but the idea that we do so at the expense of people's safety or well-being misunderstands where our own commercial interests lie," it said, adding that it plans to spend more than \$5 billion in 2021 on safety and security and employs more than 40,000 people who work on keeping users safe. □

Classifieds

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'Tiger King' star Carole Baskin sues Netflix over sequel

By **CURT ANDERSON** AP Legal Affairs Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— The founder of a Florida big cat sanctuary featured in the popular "Tiger King" series is suing Netflix and a production company to prevent the use of interviews and footage involving her in an upcoming sequel.

Netflix counters that non-profit Big Cat Rescue founder Carole Baskin and her husband agreed in writing that the material could be used in the future and that she is trying to block the company's First Amendment right to free speech.

The lawsuit, pending in Tampa federal court, is the latest twist in the saga involving Baskin and Joe Exotic — real name Joseph Maldonado-Passage — who were at the center of the documentary series "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness."

The sequel is set to air beginning Nov. 17, Netflix said in a court filing Monday.

The first series was immensely popular, airing in March 2020 just as coronavirus pandemic restrictions forced people to stay home. It drew some 64 million household viewers in its first month and was nominated for six prime-time Emmy awards, according to the company.

Much of the series has fo-



cused on a dispute between Baskin and Maldonado-Passage over treatment of tigers, lions and other big cats at an Oklahoma zoo he formerly operated. Maldonado-Passage is imprisoned after he was convicted of attempting to hire someone to kill Baskin, a tale told in the initial series.

In her lawsuit, Baskin con-

tends that Royal Goode Productions Inc., which produced "Tiger King" for Netflix, led her and husband Howard Baskin to believe their footage would only be used in a single documentary. Baskin also objects to her portrayal in the first series, especially the insinuation she had something to do with the mysterious 1997 disappearance of her pre-

vious husband, Don Lewis, who was declared dead in 2002 but whose remains have never been found.

"The Baskins believed that any sequel, though odious, would not include any of their footage," the lawsuit says. "Tiger King I was particularly harsh and unfair in its depictions of the Baskins and Big Cat Rescue."

Baskin declined further comment Tuesday on the lawsuit but did speak to The Associated Press recently about an upcoming Discovery+ two-part series called "Carole Baskin's Cage Fight," intended to call attention to the problem of zoos that allow tiger petting and private ownership of the animals. Baskin has crusaded for better treatment of big cats. "We have never, ever had anybody mislead us and be so dishonest with us as the producers were of Tiger King," Baskin told AP. "And so they were just a fluke. I mean, that was not like it was our first experience and we were never going to do it again. It was like, OK, well, that was horrible, but that's just them. That's not the industry."

Netflix, however, says the Baskins explicitly agreed in written releases that all their interviews and footage shot at their Tampa cat refuge could be used in future projects. Aside from that, Netflix's lawyers say

tampering with the sequel amounts to unconstitutional prior restraint of the right to free speech and that the Baskins can only sue for damages after it airs.

"Defendants did not need to obtain a release from plaintiffs to use the footage in Tiger King 2 or its promotion trailers," Netflix attorney Rachel Fugate said in court documents. The Baskins "have no claim at all, much less one that can evade defendants' First Amendment protections."

Netflix also notes in its filing that Baskin has used the popularity of "Tiger King" for her own publicity purposes, even appearing on ABC's "Dancing With The Stars" and essentially becoming a "pop culture phenomenon" because of the program, the company attorneys said.

A Tampa federal judge overseeing the lawsuit had not yet issued a ruling as of Tuesday afternoon.

As for Maldonado-Passage, an appeals court recently ruled that his 22-year prison sentence on the Baskin murder-for-hire plot should be reduced. He being held at a federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas.

Maldonado-Passage also announced last week that he has an aggressive form of prostate cancer and, in a Twitter post, asked people to pray for him. □

Get ready for more games: 'Squid Game' readies for Season 2

By **MARCELA ISAZA** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's official, the Netflix TV series "Squid Game" will be back for a season two, even though most TV shows in

South Korea run for just one season. But due to the show's global success, its creator and director said, "I almost feel like you leave us no choice."

"There's been so much pres-

sure, so much demand and so much love for a second season," Hwang Dong-hyuk said at a red-carpet celebration for the show Monday night.

"It's in my head right now. I'm in the planning process currently. But I do think it's too early to say when and how that's going to happen. So I will promise you this, Gi-hun will be back and he'll do something for the world," explained Hwang.

The series, starring Lee Jung-jae as Seong Gi-hun and others in the ensemble cast, centers on people who are so desperate for money that they agree

to take part in a series of schoolyard games with a deadly twist.

The dystopian survival drama from South Korea is said to have become Netflix's biggest-ever TV show. With that success has come global recognition for its stars.

Model-turned-actress Jung Ho-yeon is used to traveling for the fashion world. But this time when she flew from Korea to Los Angeles, she met her first fan at the airport, an immigration officer who asked her for her autograph.

Actor Park Hae-soo, who plays Jo Sang-woo in the series, said he "made the

big decision" to start an Instagram account.

"Now I really wanted to communicate with the world and everybody, so I started my Instagram account," said Park.

The lead actor, Lee Jung-jae has been working in Korea for over 25 years. Now his life has changed because he's also recognized on the streets of America.

"That's amazing, right? People just go around and say hello," said Lee. "So I really don't know how to respond to all the love. It's so great to be able to meet the fans who have loved and watched the show so much." □



Bayern fans step up protests against club's ties to Qatar

BERLIN (AP) — Bayern Munich fans have been stepping up their public criticism of the club for its ties to World Cup host Qatar. Bayern supporters displayed a huge banner during the team's home game on Saturday, criticizing the club for what they say is the "sports washing" of human rights abuses in Qatar by accepting sponsorship from that country's national airline.

The Bavarian team has also been holding mid-season training camps in Qatar since 2011.

Bayern club members are preparing to present a motion at the club's AGM on Nov. 25 calling for it to end to its sponsorship agreements with Qatar "at the earliest possible date."

The motion's initiator, Michael Ott, and his backers say the sponsorship deal with Qatar Airways "is incompatible with the values of our association" and that the club's reputation is be-

ing damaged through its links with the Gulf country. "Instead of bringing about changes, FC Bayern is actively helping the Emirate of Qatar through sponsorship to distract attention from the grievances," Ott says on the webpage where he's seeking other club members' support. "If FC Bayern remains silent on the situation in Qatar, our club is expressing its indifference. With this, FC Bayern is damaging its reputation and not living up to its responsibilities as a role model."

Members of the Bayern ultra fan club "Munich's Red Pride" displayed the provocative banner in the south stand shortly after the second half began against Freiburg on Saturday in the Bundesliga. It depicted club chairman Oliver Kahn and smiling president Herbert Hainer washing blood-stained clothes in a washing machine under the words, "For money, we'll wash anything clean."

A briefcase of money rested on the washing machine, which was inscribed with the letters FCB AG to represent the club, and Kahn was holding another briefcase of money with the inscription, "You can rely on us." Kahn was holding a clean robe bearing the name of Bayern's sponsor with his other hand, while both he and Hainer were standing in pools of blood.

Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann defended the club's stance after his team's 2-1 victory moved it four points clear at the top of the standings.

"The club tries to discuss things through dialogue, to influence things through dialogue and not by exclusion or looking the other way. I think that we've made a little bit of difference," Nagelsmann said. "In the end my responsibility is for what happens on the field."

Bayern fans have long pro-



tested their club's financial dealings with Qatar. They arranged a public meeting in January 2020 titled "Qatar, human rights and FC Bayern" featuring two migrant workers who spoke of their experiences while working on stadium construction for next year's World Cup.

Amnesty released a report in August accusing Qatari officials of doing little to investigate thousands of young migrant workers' deaths in the country over the past decade.

"As a result, the workers' bereaved families have been denied the opportunity to receive any compensation from the employer or the Qatari authorities," Amnesty said.

Bayern supporters have displayed banners criticizing the club's ties with Qatar before, but the coronavirus pandemic brought some reprieve for club officials because fans were excluded from games in a bid to restrict infections. Now that the fans are back, so are the protests. □

Brazil veteran Formiga to retire from international soccer



SAO PAULO (AP) — After competing in seven World

Cups, 43-year-old midfielder Formiga is set to play her farewell match for Brazil this month.

Formiga's final game for the national team will be against India on Nov. 25 in Manaus, Brazil's soccer confederation said Tuesday.

"The legendary Formiga will say goodbye to the women's national team," the confederation said on Instagram. "It is a historic mo-

ment for a life dedicated to the yellow shirt and to soccer. We love you."

Brazil will host an international tournament against India, Venezuela and Chile in the city in the heart of the Amazon, but Formiga is set to play just in the first of those encounters.

The Sao Paulo FC midfielder, named Miraildes Maciel Mota before she got the nickname that means "ant" in Portuguese, had already

said the Tokyo Olympics would be her last major competition with the national team.

Formiga has played 233 matches for Brazil including at every Olympics since Atlanta in 1996, the first for women's soccer. She won silver in the 2004 and 2008 games in Athens and Beijing, respectively.

Her most recent World Cup appearance was 2019 in France. □

Soccer star Rashford honored for fighting child poverty

LONDON (AP) — Soccer star Marcus Rashford has received an honorary award from Prince William for his successful campaign to get the British government to provide free meals to disadvantaged children during the pandemic.

Rashford, 24, was made an MBE, or Member of the Order of the British Empire, on Tuesday during a ceremony at Windsor Castle.

The England and Manchester United striker waged

a high-profile campaign last year to persuade the Conservative government it should extend free meal vouchers to vulnerable young people throughout the summer school holidays.

Rashford's campaign drew on his own experiences with hunger as a Black child growing up in a low-income household in Britain. In an open letter, he wrote that no matter how hard his mother worked, it was not

enough and "the system was not built for families like mine to succeed."

His efforts led to a U-turn on the meal vouchers debate from Prime Minister Boris Johnson and benefited more than 1 million children in England.


"For me to put it in the simplest way — I'm trying to give children the things I didn't have when I was a kid," Rashford said Tuesday after the ceremony.

The soccer star said he

would dedicate the award to his mother, Melanie,

who raised him and his four siblings. □





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Alcaraz, Nakashima dominate first session of Next Gen Finals



MILAN (AP) — Favorite Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Brandon Nakashima of the United States dominated

the opening session of the Next Gen Finals on Tuesday.

Alcaraz took just 75 minutes

to beat Holger Rune of Denmark 4-3 (6), 4-2, 4-0, seeing out the group match with a crosscourt volley to take

the final game and set to love.

The 18-year-old Alcaraz has moved more than 100 places up the rankings this season to No. 32 and reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals. Earlier, Nakashima also took less than 90 minutes to beat Francisco Cerúndolo of Argentina 4-1, 3-4 (3), 4-1, 4-0.

Nakashima, ranked 63rd in the world, broke serve four times and won when the 91st-ranked Cerúndolo returned a serve into the net. All four players are in Group A of the eight-man tournament, which has a round-robin format. The top two in both groups qualify for Friday's semifinals. The final is on Saturday.

In Group B, Sebastian Korda of the U.S. plays Hugo Gaston of France in the first match of the evening session, followed by home

favorite Lorenzo Musetti against Sebastian Baez of Argentina.

It is the fourth edition of the tournament in Milan for the top 21-and-under players on the ATP Tour. The tournament was canceled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. The ATP Finals will also be in Italy, in Turin next week.

There are different rules at the Next Gen Finals, including on-court coaching, no-Ad scoring, medical timeout limits, and Hawk-Eye making all the line calls.

The most drastic change is the shorter set, where the first to four games takes the set, with a tiebreak at 3-3. This year there are also shorter warm-ups, ensuring matches begin just one minute after the players enter the court, while bathroom breaks are timed to three minutes. □

NFL's 1st 17-game season lurks amid talk of rest, recovery

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

Dak Prescott won't suit up every week in the NFL's first 17-game regular season because he's already had to sit once with a strained right calf.

The star Dallas quarterback can still see the big picture of the added game.

"Just making sure that we stay locked in and focused," Prescott said before the Cowboys' six-game winning streak ended with a thud in a 30-16 loss to Denver. "I think when you're having the success we're having, guys are excited for that extra game just to get out there, continue to build on what we have going right now and propel us into the tournament."

Coaches and players still say "long season" a lot on a variety of topics. It's just

harder to tell if they're using the same old cliché or thinking about adding a week to get within a few days of four full months of football before the playoffs even start.

The consensus: It's probably too early to tell, but it's not something they're completely ignoring.

"I cut some things back in training camp," Dallas coach Mike McCarthy said. "The initial plan that I put together, we probably hit about 90% of that as far as workload capacity."

Several years before the 17th game was added, McCarthy was still in Green Bay when he changed the weekly routine to make Friday more about rest and recovery before a final practice Saturday. The 17th game is a perfect fit for that.

Tennessee coach Mike Vrabel lightened the load for the Titans last week before the latest in a series of impressive wins, 28-16 at the Los Angeles Rams. The closest thing to a practice came Friday after lighter workouts the previous two days.

"There are so many ... guys that are working their way through things and battling through just the wear and tear of the regular season," Vrabel said. "I think that is the biggest thing is trying to be creative and trying to find ways to improve but also ways to take care of guys and also get some other guys some work."

The Titans also have one of the latest byes, in Week 13 (and remember there are 18 weeks this season), which raises the question of whether those teams

(Week 14 is the latest) will have an edge in the latest regular-season finish (Jan. 9) in league history.

The Super Bowl also is later than ever — Feb. 13, or 207 days (29 weeks and change) after the first day that the first teams, Dallas and Pittsburgh, could officially report for training camp. The preseason was shortened by one game.

"You definitely got to focus on recovery," said Tennessee right tackle David Quessenberry, who has yet to play a full season but is still on track for it this year. "That's a big part of being able to play week in, week out in this league. But for me, it's always just focus about the next game. Be completely 100% in to play your best ball just the next week."

Asked if he remembered

a year where he felt particularly run down after 16 games, Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott said, "That's every year. I think by Week 16, everyone's worn out, even you guys. It's a physical game we play. We plan on playing deeper than 17 weeks anyway."

That's probably a better way to frame it for players, since they all want the season to end not far from where the Cowboys reported for camp in Oxnard, California, on July 21. The Super Bowl is at year-old SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

With only the top seed in each conference getting a first-round bye, most of the teams are now targeting a 21-game season. The Super Bowl champion will play at least 20 games for the first time. □